

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 AID-20

IGA-02 DRC-01 NEA-10 AF-10 EUR-25 /211 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1508

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: REMARKS ON PETROLEUM IN PRESIDENT CALDERA'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 205239

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF
PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REMARKS AT HIS OCTOBER 11 PRESS
CONFERENCE, CONCERNING WAR IN MIDDLE EAST AND PETROLEUM
SUPPLY:

"QUESTION: WHAT IS VENEZUELA'S POSITION WITH REGARD
TO ARAB-ISRAELI WAR AND WHAT EFFECT DO YOU THINK THAT
CONFLICT COULD HAVE ON WORLD ENERGY CRISIS?"

PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REPLY: "VENEZUELA PROFOUNDLY
LAMENTS EVENTS NOW TAKING PLACE IN MIDDLE EAST REGION.
WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES
INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT, MAINTAIN AN ATTITUDE FERVENTLY
DESIROUS OF PEACE, AND ARE DISPOSED, TO THE EXTENT
POSSIBLE WITHIN RADIUS OF ACTION THAT CAN CONCERN US AS
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A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, TO CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING

LASTING PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. "WE DESIRE ESPECIALLY THAT IN OUR OWN TERRITORY THERE BE MAINTAINED ATMOSPHERE OF COMPREHENSION THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN DESCENDANTS OF ARABS AND JEWS WHO LIVE IN OUR TERRITORY, WHO ARE MUCH VALUED AND WHO MAKE A VALIANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD EFFORTS OF PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY.

3. "WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY THAT ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY INTEREST ITSELF IN FINDING MEANS TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IN MOST SATISFACTORY WAY, AND WE DO NOT THINK THAT (...THESE PROBLEMS...) SHOULD HAVE GRAVE REPERCUSSIONS IN ALREADY DELICATE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY OF OIL TO IMPORTANT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND TO COUNTRIES THAT ARE UNDERTAKING TASKS OF DEVELOPMENT.

4."FOR OUR PART, VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM POLICY WILL NOT EXPERIENCE ANY ALTERATION AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS EVENT THAT WE SENCERELY LAMENT, AND WHICH, AS I SAID BEFORE, WE SISH TO BE SOLVED IN MOST RAPID AND MOST CONVENIENT WAY FOR ALL THE AFFECTED PEOPLES AND FOR ALL OF HUMANITY."

5. COMMENTS: PRESIDENT CALDERA'S REMARKS STRIKE EMBASSY AS MILD, RATHER GENERAL STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. CLEARLY HIS EFFORT IS TO KEEP CONFLICT FROM HAVING REPERCUSSIONS IN VENEZUELA, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT LOCAL JEWISH AND ARAB COMMUNITIES. HIS COMMENT ON VENEZUELAN OIL POLICY WAS VERY BRIEF AND LESS SPECIFIC THAN REMARKS ALREADY MADE BY HIS MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS (SEE CARACAS 8722). MINISTER PEREZ COMMENTED AGAIN YESTERDAY ON OIL SUPPLY QUESTION. EMBASSY REPORTING HIS REMARKS SEP TEL. MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAR, PETROLEUM, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA08907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCCLINTOCK
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731027/aaaaatxu.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 205239
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REMARKS ON PETROLEUM IN PRESIDENT CALDERA'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, (CALDERA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005